LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the patent application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A string fixing device comprising: ~~comprising~~

a plug; ~~plug,~~ and a socket into which the plug is inserted, wherein said plug has a plug body having a first string passage hole, and ~~one or more elastic~~ a plurality of elastically deformable leg pieces ~~each~~ extending from the plug body;

said socket has a second string passage hole ~~capable of being communicated to~~ that is in communication with said first string passage ~~hole,~~ hole when the first and second string passage holes are aligned and a third string passage hole into which a string is inserted; and

the string inserted into the third passage hole is located between the plurality of elastically deformable leg pieces and can be held by the plurality of elastically deformable leg pieces.

~~said elastic leg piece can hold a string inserted and passed through said third string passage hole with said elastic leg piece itself only, or with both said elastic leg piece and an inner surface of said socket.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The string fixing device according to claim 1, wherein, when said plug is inserted into the socket, said ~~elastic~~ plurality of elastically deformable leg pieces contact ~~the~~ an inner surface of said socket and elastically deform to bias said plug in ~~the~~ a direction contrary to ~~the~~ an inserting direction due to ~~the~~ elasticity generated by the elastically deformed ~~elastic~~ leg ~~piece~~ pieces; and the string inserted and passed through said third string passage hole can be held with said plurality of ~~elastic~~ elastically deformable leg pieces.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The string fixing device according to claim 1, wherein said elastic leg piece is bent at least at one portion thereof, and when said plug is inserted into the socket, the elastic leg piece contacts the inner surface of the socket and elastically deforms to bias said plug in the direction contrary to said inserting direction due to the elastic force generated when elastically deformed, and the string inserted and passed through said third string passage hole can

be held by holding sections provided on said elastic leg piece with bent sections formed thereon.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The string fixing device according to claim 1, wherein, when said plug is inserted into the socket, said elastic leg piece contacts the inner surface of said socket and elastically deforms, biases said plug in the direction contrary to the inserting direction with the elastic force generated when the elastic leg piece elastically deforms, and the string inserted and passed through said third string passage hole can be held by tightly holding the string between said elastic leg piece the inner surface of said socket.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The string fixing device according to claim 1, wherein said ~~plug has two~~ plurality of elastically deformable leg pieces comprises first and second elastic leg pieces provided with a space from each other;

~~said~~ an inner surface of the socket has two contact surfaces formed at opposite positions and contacted by the first and second elastic leg pieces, said contact surfaces inclined so that a space between said contact surfaces becomes smaller as the plug is inserted deeper; and

the first and second elastic leg pieces of said plug are formed so that, when the first and second elastic leg pieces contact the inner surfaces at a position where a space between said contact surfaces is the largest, the space between the first and second elastic leg pieces is larger than a width of the ~~string 3~~ string inserted and passed through the third string passage hole, and also so that, when the string inserted and passed through said first string passage hole and said second string passage hole is tightly held between the plug biased by ~~the~~ an elastic force of said first and second elastic leg pieces and the socket, the space between said first and second elastic leg pieces is smaller than the width of the string inserted and passed through said third string passage hole.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The string fixing device according to claim 1, wherein, when the string inserted and passed through said first string passage hole and said second string passage hole is tightly held between the plug biased by ~~the~~ an elastic force of said ~~elastic~~ plurality of elastically deformable leg pieces and the socket, said ~~elastic~~ plurality of elastically deformable leg pieces holds the string inserted and passed through said third string passage hole, and also said ~~elastic~~ plurality of elastically deformable leg pieces can be released from ~~the~~

holding the string inserted and passed through the third insertion hole ~~state~~ when the other string is not tightly held between the plug and the socket.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The string fixing device according to claim 6, wherein said plug has a movement limiting device for limiting a range in which said plug can move against the socket in ~~the~~ an inserting direction and in ~~the~~ a direction contrary to the inserting direction; and

said ~~elastic~~ plurality of elastically deformable leg pieces can release the string inserted and passed through said third string passage hole from ~~the held state~~ being held when said plug is at a position where its movement in the direction contrary to the inserting direction is limited.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The string fixing device according to claim 6, wherein said plug has a movement limiting device for limiting movement of said plug against the socket in the inserting direction and in the direction contrary to the inserting direction; and

said elastic leg pieces can release the string inserted and passed through said third string passage hole from the held state when said plug is at a position where its movement in the inserting direction is limited.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A string fixing device comprising a plug, a socket into which the plug is inserted, and an biasing device for biasing the plug inserted into the socket in the direction contrary to the inserting direction, wherein said plug comprises a plug body having a first string passage hole;

said socket has a second string passage hole capable of being communicated to said first string passage hole, and a third string passage hole; and

said biasing device elastically deforms, when said plug is inserted into the socket, in association with movement of the plug, and the elastic force caused by the elastic deformation biases said plug to the direction contrary to the inserting direction, and at the same time holds the string inserted and passed through said third string passage hole.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The string fixing device according to claim 9, wherein said biasing device comprises springs provided within the socket, and can hold the string inserted and

passed through said third string passage hole by holding the string between the springs, or between the springs and an inner surface of the socket.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The string fixing device according to claim 9, wherein said biasing device holds the string inserted and passed through said third string passage hole in the state where the string inserted and passed through said first string passage hole and said second string passage hole is tightly held between the plug biased by the biasing force of said biasing device and the socket, and can release the string when the string is not held between the plug and the socket.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The string fixing device according to claim 11, wherein said plug comprises a movement limiting device for limiting movement of said plug against the socket in the inserting direction and in the direction contrary to the inserting direction; and

said biasing device can release the string inserted and passed through said third string passage hole from the held state when said plug is at the position where its movement in the direction contrary to the inserting direction is limited.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The string fixing device according to claim 11, wherein said plug comprises a movement limiting device for limiting movement of said plug against the socket in the inserting direction and in the direction contrary to the inserting direction; and

said biasing device can release the string inserted and passed through said third string passage hole from the held state when said plug is at the position where its movement in the inserting direction is limited.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The string fixing device according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 7, wherein said movement limiting device comprises a protruding hook extending outward from a periphery of an open edge face of the first string passage hole of said plug body and capable of contacting an edge of said second string passage hole when placed in the second string passage hole of said socket.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The string fixing device according to any of claims 8, wherein

said movement limiting device comprises a protruding hook extending outward from a periphery of an open edge face of the first string passage hole of said plug body and capable of contacting said second string passage hole when placed in the second string passage hole of said socket.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The string fixing device according to any of claims 12, wherein said movement limiting device comprises a protruding hook extending outward from a periphery of an open edge face of the first string passage hole of said plug body and capable of contacting said second string passage hole when placed in the second string passage hole of said socket.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The string fixing device according to any of claims 13, wherein said movement limiting device comprises a protruding hook extending outward from a periphery of an open edge face of the first string passage hole of said plug body and capable of contacting said second string passage hole when placed in the second string passage hole of said socket.

Claim 18 (new): A string fixing device for use with a string comprising:

a plug; and a socket into which the plug is inserted, wherein said plug has a plug body having a first string passage hole, and a plurality of elastically deformable leg pieces extending from the plug body;

said socket has a second string passage hole that is in communication with said first string passage hole when the first and second string passage holes are aligned and a third string passage hole into which the string can be inserted; and

when the string is inserted into the third passage hole at least one leg piece of the plurality of elastically deformable leg pieces contacts and holds the string.